the Capitol Hill Monitor

Volume 2, Issue 3 *April, 1996*

DC POLICE TERMINOLOGY

If you're an avid listener of DC Police frequencies, you may wonder what police recruits learn in the academy about radio procedures. With the help of Reserve Officer David Carter, we have a copy of the police terminology list which the police academy distributes to the officers.

1. Bank check - Check the bank.

2. Business check - Check business.

3. Rolling stolen - Tag check on moving vehicle.

4. Unit with message - Wants to advise you.

5. Unit with a tentative - Wants to give lookout.

6. Radio check -How do you copy radio?

7. Listing - Who is tag/permit registered to?

8. Hold for personal - Rest room (10-7R).

9. Did you copy me dispatcher - Did you understand me?

10. Landline - By telephone.

11. Wagon to push one - Disabled auto.

12. Unit with cables - Cables to jump-start vehicle.

13. Give me a backup - Send another unit to help.

14. Give me some assistance - Send another unit to help.

15. Code 1 - Unit responding to a reported emergency, utilizing emergency warning devices (red light and siren) to assist in a safe and swift response.

16. Code 2 - Unit responding to an assignment by the most direct route, while complying with the traffic regulations of the District of Columbia.

17. On the scene - Unit has arrived at assignment.

18. Command vehicle - Mobile command post where all activities of an incident are coordinated.

19. Tag, name, permit, checks - Request by field officers for information which deals with criminal or traffic violations.

20. 1-D, 2-D, etc. - 1st District, 2nd District, etc.

21. Zone - Radio zone.

22. Dispatcher - Officer or civilian assigned to communications division who assigns radio runs to units.

23. Scout car - Marked vehicle which normally responds to calls for service.

24. Cruiser - Marked or unmarked unit used by officials and personnel assigned to CID, Youth Services, etc.

25. Patrol car - Is interchangeable with the term scout car.

26. Patrol wagon - Vehicle used to transport prisoners or property.

27. Squad - Smallest echelon of command. Usually six to 10 officers in a squad.

28. Station - District police station house.

29. D.O.A. - Dead on arrival.

30. Tact - Personnel used in special circumstances to prevent crimes such as burglaries, robberies, etc.

31. Re-pop - Repossession.

32. Turn-up - Personnel engaged in the finding of a wanted person.

33. OAS/OAR - Operating after suspension or after revocation.

34. Station clerk - Personnel assigned to a district station house who perform the administrative duties of the command.

35. Juno - Call sign for the police helicopter.

36. Harbor boat - Vessel used to patrol the waterways of the District of Columbia.

37. Barricade situation - An incident where a subject wanted by the police takes hostages or barricades himself in a building.

38. Road runner - Code name for a presidential movement.

39. Radio unit - A police vehicle equipped with a radio.

40. Personal - A request made by an officer for a rest room break.

41. Scooter unit -An officer patrolling on a scooter.

42. Footman -An officer patrolling on foot.

43. K-9 officer -An officer on patrol with a dog.

44. Vice officer -An officer assigned to enforce the gambling, prostitution and narcotic laws.

45. Official - A member of the department with the rank of sergeant or above.

46. Beat - A described geographical area where officers patrol by vehicle or on foot.

47. District - An element of command with geographical boundaries which is responsible for dispensing all police services in that area.

48. Bomb dog - A specially trained dog used to seek out munitions and explosive devices.

49. SOD - Special Operations Division

50. Narcotic dog - A specially trained dog used to seek out drugs.

51. CID cruiser - Mobile unit assigned to Criminal Investigation Division.

52. Detox center - Detoxification center where intoxicated subjects are taken for treatment.

53. D.C. Jail - District of Columbia Jail.

54. St. E's - Saint Elizabeth's Hospital (mental hospital)

55. D.C. General, Area "C" - Area at D.C. General which is for the mentally ill.

56. Transport - The movement of prisoners or property performed by the police department.

57. Station assignment - Administrative assignment received from a district station house.

58. N.E. shop - MPDC vehicle maintenance shop.

59. Radio shop - MPDC radio maintenance shop.

60. Property Division - Division of police department which handles all property that comes into the possession of members of department.

61. Police crane - Equipment used by department personnel to move vehicles.

62. Youth Services - District unit engaged in activities pertaining to juveniles.

63. Casual clothes/old clothes - Police personnel not working in uniform engaged in specific target crimes.

64. Central cell block - Main holding facility for adult male prisoners located in police headquarters.

65. Receiving home - Holding facility for juvenile prisoners awaiting court appearance or committed by the court.

66. Fire board - Central office where all fire and ambulance services are dispatched.

67. Remain - Remain in service (unit not held).

68. Eagle - Call sign for the US Park Police helicopter.

69. Second sighting - A suspect, who has committed a crime, that has been observed at a later date and time by the victim.

70. Lock ward - A holding facility maintained by D.C. Corrections personnel for inmates being treated at D.C. General Hospital.

71. Strong room - A holding facility maintained by MPDC personnel for inmates and prisoners treated at D.C. General Hospital.

72. Holding one - A citizen or sworn member who has apprehended or arrested a subject for a crime. Usually a request for a transport to a police facility is made.

73. Hotel - This is a code name for the White House.

74. P-56 - This is a code name for the restricted air space located around the White House. Generally this code will be used by Juno in order to get clearance when penetrating this area.

BOB DOLE'S RADIO FREQUENCIES

Last month we featured frequency information for Pat Buchanan. This month we have the channel plan for the radios used by the Bob Dole staffers. Dole received Secret Service protection in March. Judging from what we have monitored, Dole's code name appears to be "Patriot" (they probably thought "Pineapple" would have sounded too obvious). All four channels are simplex. As the election approaches Dole's staff may start using a repeater.

464.50s CH1 [d143]
464.55s CH2 [d043]
469.50s CH3 [d364]
469.55s CH4 [d627]

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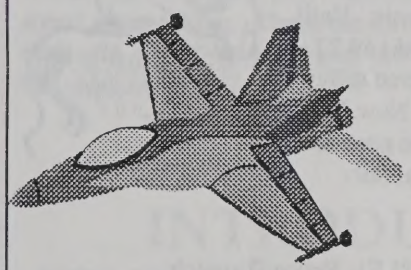
BLUE ANGELS RETURN TO ANDREWS



The annual Department of Defense joint services open house is set for May 18 and 19 at Andrews Air Force Base. This year's featured attraction will be the US Navy's aerial demonstration team, the Blue Angels and their FA-18 Hornets. The Army's Golden Knights and the 82nd Airborne Division parachute teams also plan demonstrations.

Using past observations as a guide, we're able to predict that the Blue Angels will likely choose at least two of the below frequencies for communication. The Blue Angels usually arrive early in the week and attempt a practice flight or two. A special show is planned for seniors and disabled people on May 17. So it's a good idea to program the frequencies into your scanner days in advance. Frequencies previously used by the Blue Angels in this area have been noted with a star.

118.200
123.400 Air Show Control "Common"
141.560 Charlie
142.000 Alpha (primary)
142.025 Ground Support (paired with 142.625?)
143.000 Bravo (alternate) (AM)
143.600 Maintenance (Ch. 10)
238.150 *
241.400
250.800 Planes 5 and 6
251.500 *
251.600 Planes 5 and 6; Air-to-Ground (Ch. 10/19) *
263.350 Planes 5 and 6 (Ch. 10) *
275.350 Planes 1, 2, 3 & 4; Air-to-Air/Grd (Ch. 9) *
319.800
345.900
360.400 Operations Coordination
384.400
391.900 Air Coordination
395.900 Air Coordination

This year's theme is "Pillars of Freedom," and is expected to draw flying teams from around the world, including Canada and Belgium. If you attend, please take notes and share your findings with the rest of us. Parking and admission are free. Gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Call 301-568-5995 for details.

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ANDREWS GOES TRUNKED!

As reported in last month's newsletter, Andrews Air Force Base recently installed a trunked radio system. The fire department, security police and base operations are simulcasting trunked talkgroups with existing radio systems or have switched entirely. We confirmed nine channels so far, but are still in search of the inputs.

406.350 Control / Voice
406.950 Control / Voice
407.150 Control / Voice
408.025 Control? / Voice
408.200 Voice
408.750 Voice
408.950 Voice
409.350 Voice
409.725 Phone Interconnect

###

BALTIMORE CITY TRUNKED SYSTEM UPDATE

If the project goes as scheduled, by this time next year the Baltimore Fire Department will be the first agency to operate on the city's $60 million digital Motorola Astro trunked radio system.

During a dinner sponsored by the Breaking News Network, Fire Communications Bureau Chief Denis McMahon told the buffs that the fire department's existing radio system is the oldest of all city agencies, with many of its radios dating back to the early 1980s.

Fire department trunked radios will have about 16 talkgroups. The VHF radios currently have nine channels. The department plans to retain at least two of its VHF channels: 154.415 for dispatch to stations and a second frequency for patches into the trunked system for use by medevac helicopters.

A fiber optic network under construction will connect the eight proposed trunked system transmit sites with the communications center. A "leaky coax" antenna system is planned for the metro and interstate tunnels.

Control stations will be installed in offices of other agencies for mutual aid coordination. This includes Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, the Coast Guard, Port Authority, Transportation Authority, Transit Administration and Department of the Environment.

The police department, McMahon added, is expected to migrate to the system two years after the fire department. Other city agencies also intend to switch.

The city plans other communications enhancements as well. Automatic vehicle locating (AVL) systems may eventually be installed in medic units and some public works vehicles, such as snow plows.

Currently fire communications personnel notify 45 fire department staffers of multiple-alarm fires and other emergencies via alphanumeric pagers on MobileMedia's system. McMahon said the department plans to expand this system and assign each medic unit and company officer a pager which will receive alphanumeric messages from the department's computer-aided dispatch system. This will include a description of the emergency with its location. The call will continue to be dispatched over the radio as well. This is similar to CAD paging systems used by fire departments in Frederick, Montgomery and Prince William counties.

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SCANNER LISTENERS BUY TIME IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Don't throw away that analog scanner just yet! The request for proposal for Montgomery County's digital trunked radio system will not be out until next year according to W Van Aller of the county's Information Systems & Telecommunications Department. The RFP had been scheduled for completion early this year.

###

MD PARK POLICE RECONFIGURE RADIOS

The Prince George's County Division of the Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission has once again reconfigured its radios. Officers are now dispatched on 159.315 only. Until last summer 159.315 and 159.27 were simulcast and covered different parts of the county. Now 159.27 is a tactical channel, also used for special events (USArena, fairgrounds, etc.).

159.315r [114.8] F1: Police Dispatch
159.315s [114.8] F2: Talkaround
159.270r [103.5] F3: Police Tac & Special Events
159.270s [103.5] F4: Talkaround
159.390r [141.3] F5: Park Maintenance & Rangers
159.390s [141.3] F6: Talkaround
151.280r [118.8] F7: Montgomery Co Div (F1)
151.340s [118.8] F8: Montgomery Co Div (F2)
151.280s [118.8] F9: Talkaround (F3)
158.910i [107.2] Input to 159.315 (F1)
151.445i [162.2] Input to 159.270 (F3)
151.175i [192.8] Input to 159.390 (F5)
151.160i [118.8] Input to 151.280 (F7)

The Prince George's County division is also authorized to use 155.475 (national law enforcement) and 158.940 (the county's emergency preparedness frequency). Two of the commission's former frequencies, 158.865 and 158.955, are also licensed to Charles County and appear to no longer be used by the commission.

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BLADENSBURG VFD PLANS REPEATER

The Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department, Prince George's County Company 9, has a license pending for its own repeater channel on 490.5375. Assuming the FCC grants the license. radio technician Scott Glazer says the department will use the repeater in both analog and digital "Astro" modes for intra-department communication. The department currently uses 464.55, portable "channel 9," for simplex communication. 464.55 is often used for casino night and will probably be replaced by the new repeater frequency.

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MDTs FOR OCEAN CITY

Sometime this summer 25 percent of Ocean City police cars are expected to use notebook computers linked to headquarters via radio. All of the city's patrol cars, reports Bill Zittle, will have them in 1997. Federal and local funds paid for the new computers which will be used for NCIC checks and to speed report taking. Check the former police channels, 460.15, 460.325 and 460.425, for the computer link.

###

INTRODUCING "THE SCANNER CLUB"

Here's some good news for scanner enthusiasts who miss Les Mattson's "Northeast Scanning News." Columnists from the former "Northeast Scanning News," members of America On-Line's weekly "Scanner Conference" and other recognized scanists will be writing for "The Scanner Club." This is an outgrowth of the "Club" section of "National Scanning," a magazine with which NESN had merged.

Unlike NESN, this publication will cover the entire country. "The Scanner Club," which will range in size from 60 to 80 pages, will be published six times a year. To join, send a check for $24.95 (yearly dues) made payable to "The Scanner Club" and mail it to: "The Scanner Club," PO Box 62, Gibbstown, NJ 08027. We wish Les and his colleagues best of luck with the new organization.

###

WANT TO TRAVEL AND MEET OTHER SCANNER LISTENERS?

The Northeast Scanning News/American On-Line Scanner Conference spring meeting will be held on Sat., April 27 at the Independence Fire House in Blooming Grove, NY from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Joe Nooney at 518-784-4612 Friday through Monday nights between 6:30 and 9:30 or e-mail: scannut@aol.com

The second-annual National Scanning Convention is set for July 12-14 in Lancaster, PA. For details send a reply envelope to: The Scanner Club, PO Box 62, Gibbstown, NJ 08027.

The Grove Communications Expo is planned for Oct. 18-20 in Atlanta, GA. The three-day event includes tours, a banquet, exhibitions, guest speakers and seminars. For information call 704-837-9200 or e-mail expo96@grove.net

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FOR SALE

Herman Lee has a 200-channel Realistic Pro-51 for sale for $160. He says the radio is in excellent condition. For details call Herman at 301-952-8762.

Also for sale this month is the Canadian version of the Bearcat-200XLT. Vivian Ronen says the radio is brand new in the box. She says the Canadian version includes the cellular band. Call Vivian at 202-501-0154 for a price.

###

NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker

COUNTY POLICE GIVE THEMSELVES HIGH MARKS FOR HANDLING TRAIN CRASH. A March 28 Washington Post article reported that the Montgomery County Police Department "gave itself high marks for its handling of the Silver Spring commuter train wreck" that claimed 11 lives on Feb. 16, but officials said the disaster demonstrated a need for better coordination and some new equipment. The review was overseen by the chief of the department's Field Services Bureau, in preparation for a critique of all county agencies involved in the disaster.

"The six-page police critique," the Post noted, "comes with an attached wish list of items, from 45 alphanumeric pagers --which transmit word messages instead of just numbers and have a price tag of about $250 each --to computers, cellular phones, high-intensity lights, a generator and winter-weight

jumpsuits... The critique gave mediocre grades to the department's high-tech command bus, saying that its fax machine failed during the crisis and that the vehicle's cellular phone system was overwhelmed because of the sudden increase in demand by civilian users."

"The report cited a need for secure communications between police supervisors and street officers, because reporters and residents were able to listen to conversations by using radio scanners."

NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR DC POLICE. The Metropolitan Police Department opened a store-front office for its Asian Liaison Unit on March 4. The office, at 611 H St. NW, is in the 1st District about four blocks from police headquarters. A police news release says a sergeant, two detectives, an investigator and four other officers will work out of the office on a citywide basis as liaisons between Asian victims of crime and officers. The uniformed officers will also provide regular patrol services in the area. Rent and other costs are being supplemented by private donations.

WWRC-AM BUGGING YOUR PHONE? Last year the FCC authorized WWRC (AM 980) to increase its power to 50,000 watts during daytime hours, reports the April Takoma Park Newsletter. Since then the phone company and station engineers have received more than the usual number of complaints from residents in the Hyattsville area who say they hear audio from WWRC on their home phones.

The station's transmitter is near the 6100 block of Ager Road in Hyattsville. Other devices, the article noted, such as stereos, amplifiers, electronic organs and home intercoms may also experience similar interference. Interference filters are available from WWRC and the phone company. People who experience interference should contact Kevin McNamara, WWRC chief engineer, at 301-587-4900 or the Bell Atlantic repair office. Copies of the FCC's "Interference Handbook" are available from WWRC or the Government Printing Office.

MORE CELLPHONE TAXES FOR AREA COUNTIES? Fairfax County Executive William J. Leidinger proposed 215 cuts and tax increases that would reduce county spending by $55 million and increase revenue by $140 million. Among the new taxes and fees proposed, reported the Washington Post and Washington Times are a tax on cellular telephone use, which would be 10 percent of the monthly bill to a maximum of $30 a month, as well as a $200 per ride ambulance fee.

Leidinger estimates the cellular phone tax, which would carry a maximum charge of $3 a month would raise $1.26 million in fiscal 1997. But Fairfax business leaders are warning that the proposed tax increases and a new tax on cellular phones would send the wrong message to companies considering a move to the county and serve as a not-so-subtle nudge to those thinking about leaving.

Dolly Bednar, manager of Nationwide cellular phone service in Fairfax, warned that the effect of such a tax would come as a setback to the industry because it is only now reaching the point where it can make the technology accessible at an affordable price. On the other side of the river legislation is pending in Annapolis which could let Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry impose a 10 percent tax on local, long-distance and cellular calls with each household given a monthly $10 exemption on local calls.

ILLINOIS TOWN SEEKS DISPATCHER. Wanted: Dispatcher for small-town police, fire and ambulance service, open immediately. Must be versatile, patient, possess good people skills. Work 24 hours, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. Pay: $1.35 an hour. Vacation: Sunday afternoons when the weather is nice. Benefits: A roomful of equipment and the gratitude of your neighbors.

"No one is expected to apply for that job. But Pawnee, Illinois officials are deciding how to replace the man who held the position for 20 years -- Dick 'Dispatcher' Schultz, who died Feb. 8," reported the Feb. 24 State Journal Register. Schultz, 67, had been bedridden for half a century by rheumatoid arthritis. In the 1960s, he started answering the phone for a funeral home and then the volunteer fire department. By the mid-1970s, he was dispatching for Pawnee's ambulance service and police department. Working as an independent contractor, Schultz answered phones and worked radios without coffee breaks, lunch hours, shift changes, weekends or vacations. He was paid $12,000 a year.

Village Board President Kenton Manning, who serves as police commissioner, and the trustees are seeking a way to replace Schultz affordably while retaining at least some of the service he provided. The village could have its emergency service lines answered by the Sangamon County sheriff's office, the Illinois State Police or a nearby municipality, such as Auburn, which retains its own 24-hour dispatch.

"Most of the world may have been beyond Schultz's reach, but within his tiny realm everything was literally within his grasp. His bed was nearly encased in telephones, radios, scanners, a television and videocassette recorder, telephone books and emergency services manuals." Several people are working in shifts from Schultz's bedroom until a replacement is found.

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Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues are $10 and include 12 issues (back issues cost $1 each). Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney. Membership will be prorated accordingly in the event of a postage increase.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Md Coordinator (703-749-7379)
Ken Fowler, Vir. Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!

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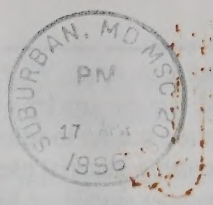

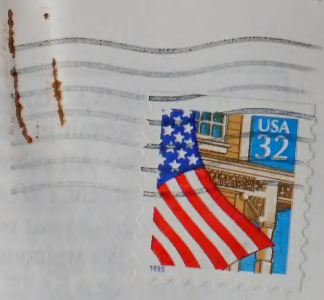

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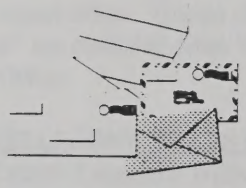

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